

Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration and Enhancement Task Force

Meeting #5
July 15, 2021



1. Elevating critical issues facing the Atchafalaya Basin and the importance of its holistic management for navigation, flood control, and restoration;
2. Identifying and building support for new and recurring sources of funding, including working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reinvigorate the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System – Louisiana Project
3. Identifying shared goals and values for restoration and enhancement of the Basin, as illustrated by project types that would benefit both the Basin and the larger coastal program as managed by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority; and
4. Serving as a proactive means to build consensus and advise the Atchafalaya Basin Program on matters relating to implementation of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System – Louisiana Project.

DRAFT Recommendations Report Outline

- I. Introduction to the Task Force
- II. Overview of Existing Condition
- III. Recommendations
- IV. Discussion / Conclusion
- V. Appendices (if necessary)

Enhance outreach that highlights the importance of the Atchafalaya Basin locally and nationally

- unique nature of the system
- critical coastal feature
- emergency action needed
- **Target for implementation**

Urge and request Congress fully fund construction of finalized USACE studies relevant to the management of the Atchafalaya Basin as well as funding authorized studies

- MRT
- Atchafalaya Floodway
- South Central Coastal study
- East Atchafalaya (WRDA 2007)
- Others?

Urge the USACE to include holistic management of the Atchafalaya Basin, with ecological restoration, as a core component in the authorized Lower Mississippi River comprehensive management study

- Needs finalization and funding
- Push to include the Atchafalaya Basin as a critical part of the lower river
- Sediment management strategies – Basin v coastal needs
- Coordination across missions
- Others? Suggested mechanism?

USACE to complete the Atchafalaya Floodway System – Louisiana project planning to authorize construction of projects/features located within the remaining Water Management Units

- Aid the state in receiving credit for state actions
- Allow for larger projects and civil works consideration (i.e. mitigation)
- Need for revision?
- Other considerations?

Finalize and incorporate current studies (i.e, OMAR) within a larger examination of the current hydrology of the Basin including inputs of sediment and water at the ORCC and their eventual fate

- The effect of shoaling at river outlets
- Effects of sea level rise on the system
- Other considerations?
- Who to conduct?

Management actions should where possible restore north/south sheet flows within the Basin

- Identification of and gapping existing spoil banks
 - Utilize techniques that promote longevity of the feature
- Complete an inventory and evaluation of spoil banks and associated local influences to inform and prioritize implementation **Who?**
- **Other considerations?**
- **Do these need individual treatment?**



Management actions should where possible restore and conserve deepwater habitats within the Basin

- Dredge water bodies to restore depth
 - Spoil disposal to run north/south; creating additional benefits
 - Utilize spoil disposal to nourish subsiding areas separated from sediment sources
- Limit the ingress of sediment into deep water habitats potentially through hydrologic modification, trapping, etc.
- Examine alternative uses for dredged sediment (comm., resident.)
- Other considerations?
- Do these need individual treatment?

Examine ways to better contain and mobilize sediment within the main channel

- Minimize sediment leaving the channel into interior areas
- Alternative dredge management
- Maximize downstream transport
- Informed by hydrologic study
- Other considerations?
- Are these management, study, or both recommendations?

Examine the current management of the ORCC and the impacts of altered flows between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers

- Alternative flows
- Operational criteria
- Standalone or part of LRCMS?
- State or Federal?
- Other considerations?

Update the State's Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan to include current conditions and challenges as informed by the ARBRE Task Force

- CPRAB through the CPRA effort
- Inclusion, where feasible, recommended management actions from ARBRE TF
- Other considerations?

CPRA Board and CPRA to better engage the public concerning the management of the Atchafalaya Basin

- Specific considerations?

Recommend the ARBRE Task Force be used to discuss and inform potential management actions within the Atchafalaya Basin

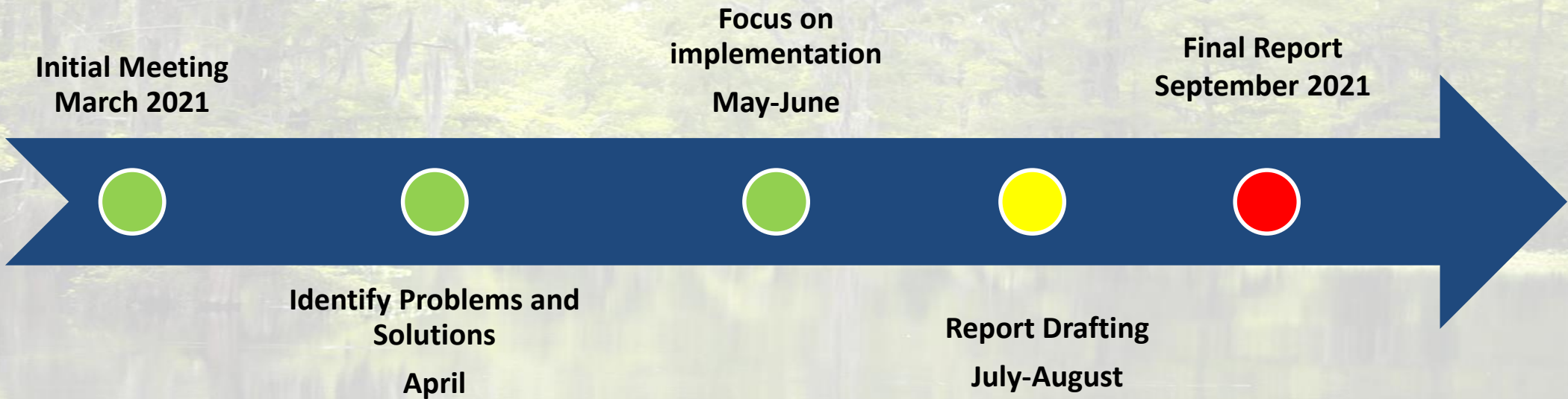
- Specific requests/recommendations?

Additional recommendations?

- Recurring funding?
- Specific federal asks / authorizations?
- Programs?



Timeline





Next Meeting
Thursday, August 12 at 9:00
Location: TBD